

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056730

63

ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: EA/PRCM:NBGUENTHER

APPROVED BY: EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG

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P 132207Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 056730

FOLLOWING REPEAT HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
SENT SECSTATE DATED P 120325Z MAR 75.

QUOTE

UNCLAS

STATUS LNO 54

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN TQ CH

SUBJECT: RESCUE OF PRC VESSEL AND CREW

1. VESSEL TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA REPORTED AGROUND ON HELEN'S REEF IN SW PALAU DISTRICT, TTPI. FIELD TRIP SHIP FROM PALAU ON RESCUE MISSION AND WILL RETURN CREW TO PALAU. WE REQUIRE GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURE FOR REPATRIATION CREW AND FOR SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY TT.

2. TT HAS CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH ILLEGAL FISHING IN TT WATERS, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME THAT VESSEL WAS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IN CASES SUCH AS THIS, RESCUE VESSEL ROUTINELY CARRIES REPRESENTATIVE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WHO BOARDS VESSEL TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE POACHING. RESCUE VESSEL ATTEMPTS TO SALVAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM DAMAGED VESSEL FOR RETURN TO DISTRICT ALONG WITH CREW. TT OFFICIALS PROCEEDING ROUTINELY, BUT HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH REPATRIATION OF PRC CITIZENS. RESCUE VESSEL INSTRUCTED TO SALVAGE EQUIPMENT ONLY WITH FULL AGREEMENT CAPTAIN OF DAMGED SHIP. BERGESEN. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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